

# Polymers for an Energy Efficient Future

Lou Glasgow

DuPont

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# Agenda

- Major Trends
- The Biotechnology revolution
- Advanced materials
- Sustainable processes
- Summary

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# Major Trends

- Lighter, cheaper, greener
- Dematerialization
- Sustainability
  - Environmental footprint
  - Recyclability
  - Bioprocessing
  - Renewable feedstocks

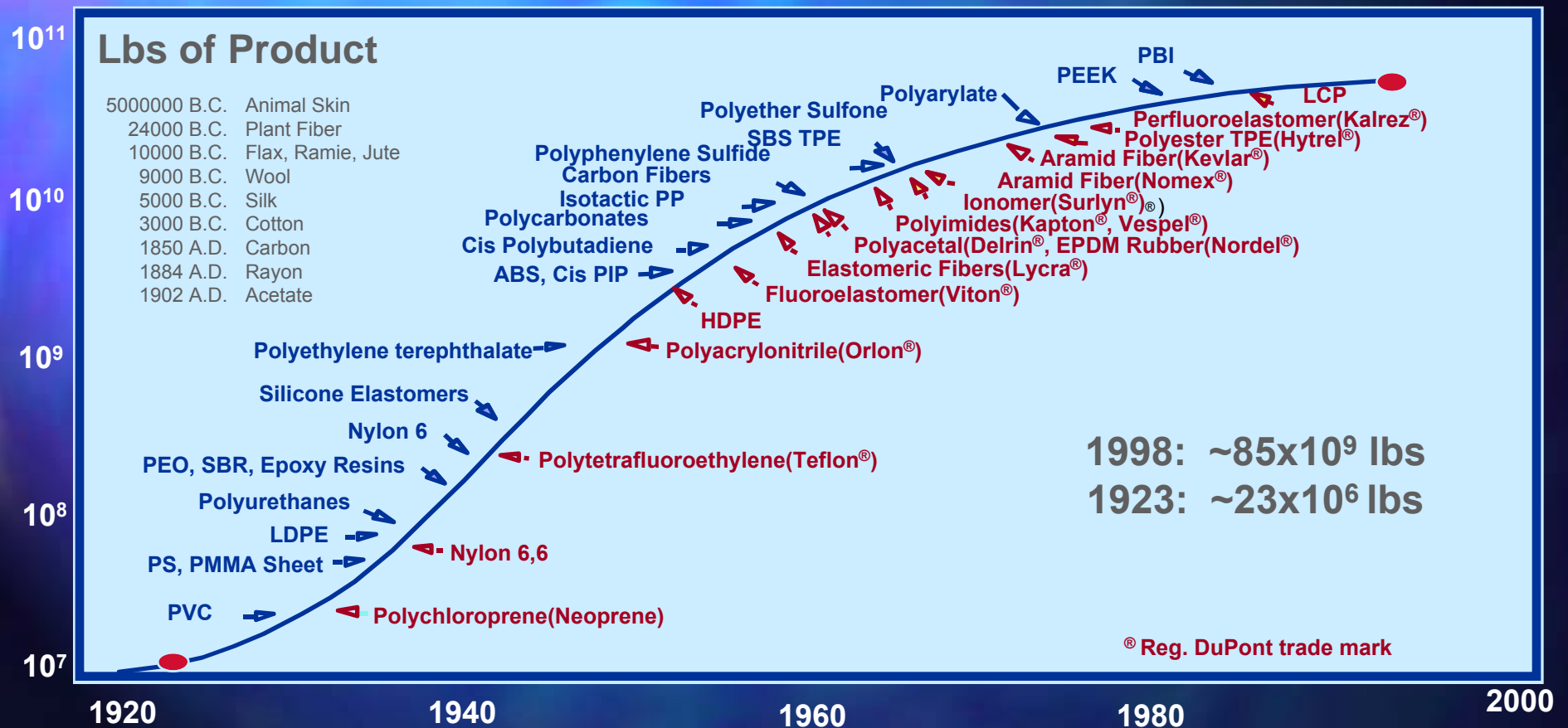
# Major Trends

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- **Dematerialization**
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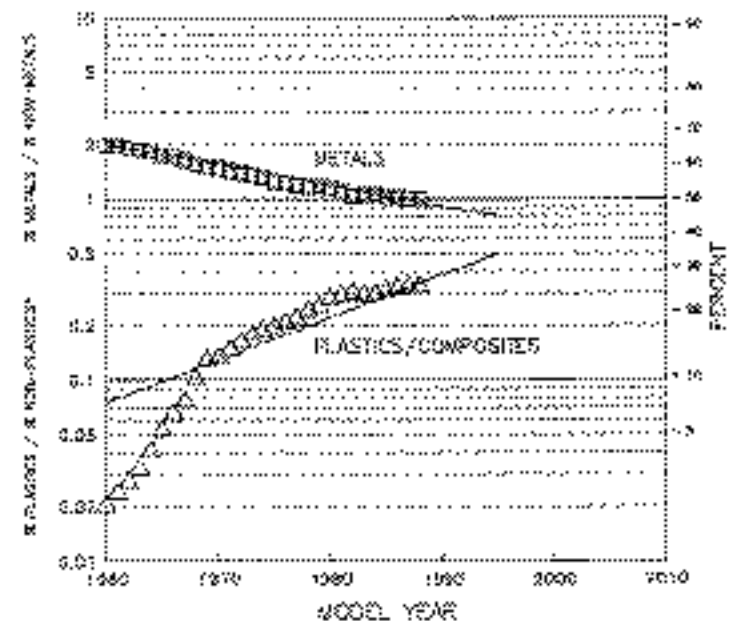
# U.S. Production of Petroleum-Based Polymers



Major Trends

Plastics play a key role in energy efficiency through weight reduction of automobiles

# PLASTICS IN U.S. PASSENGER CARS (VOLUME BASIS)



\* Excluding fluids & lubricants  
Source: World Automotive Yearbook

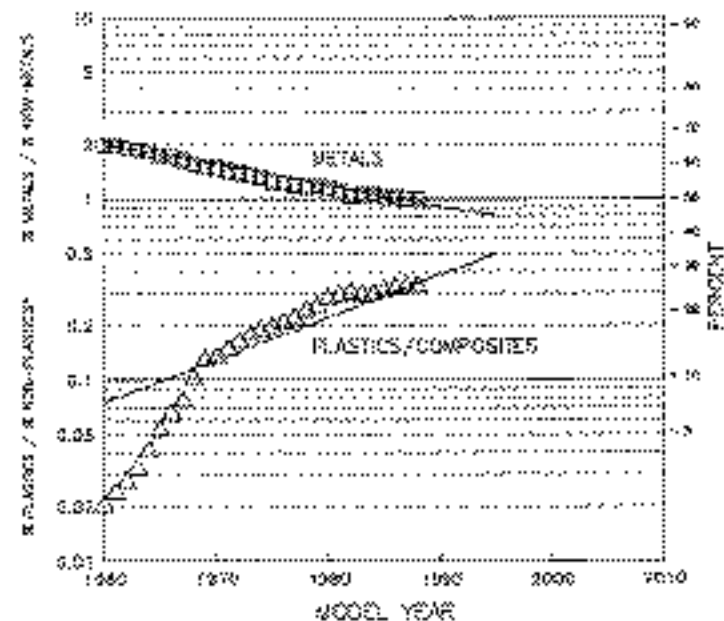
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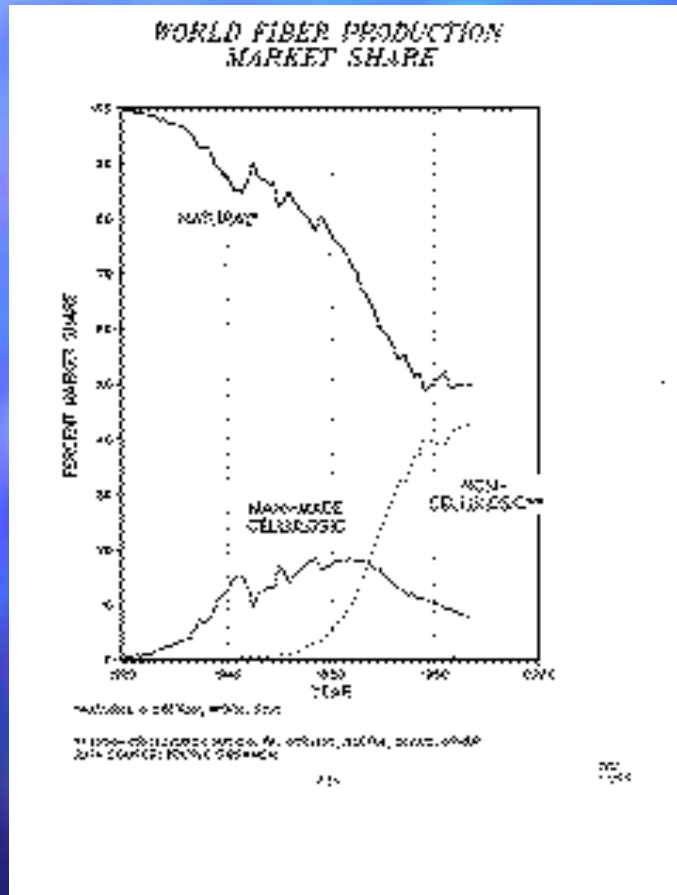
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Major Trends



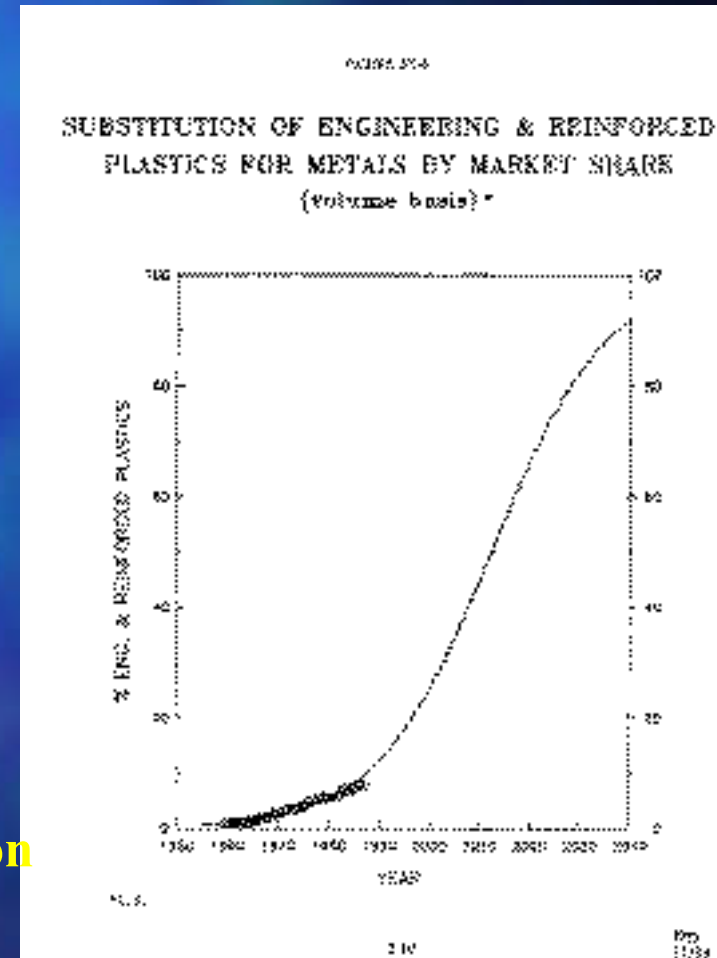


# Man-made fibers have largely penetrated natural fibers.....

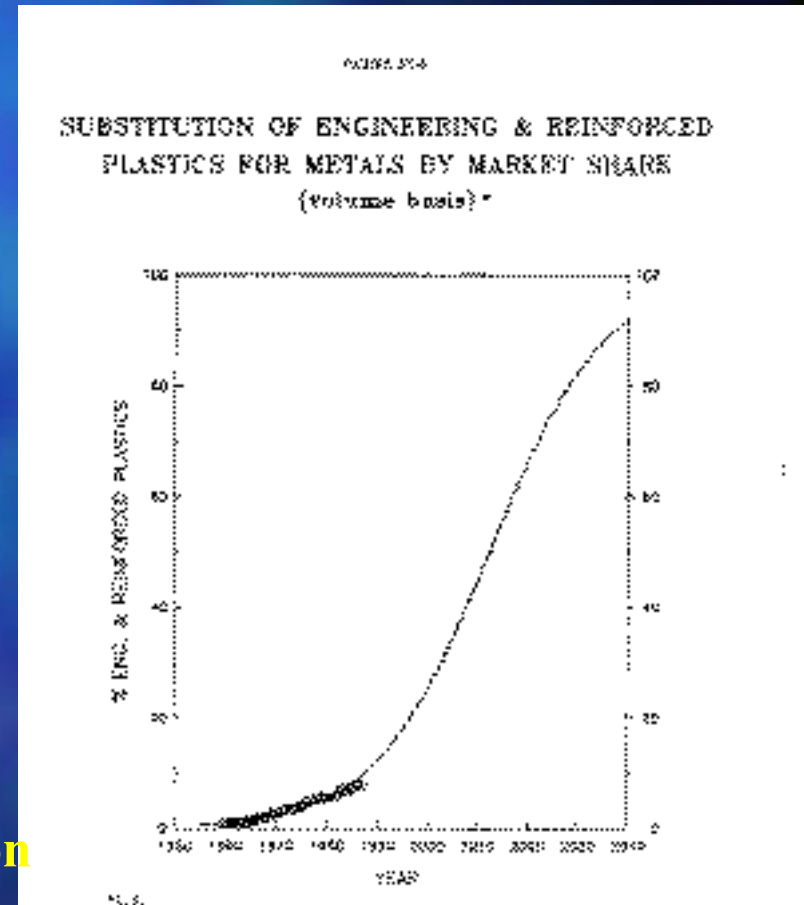
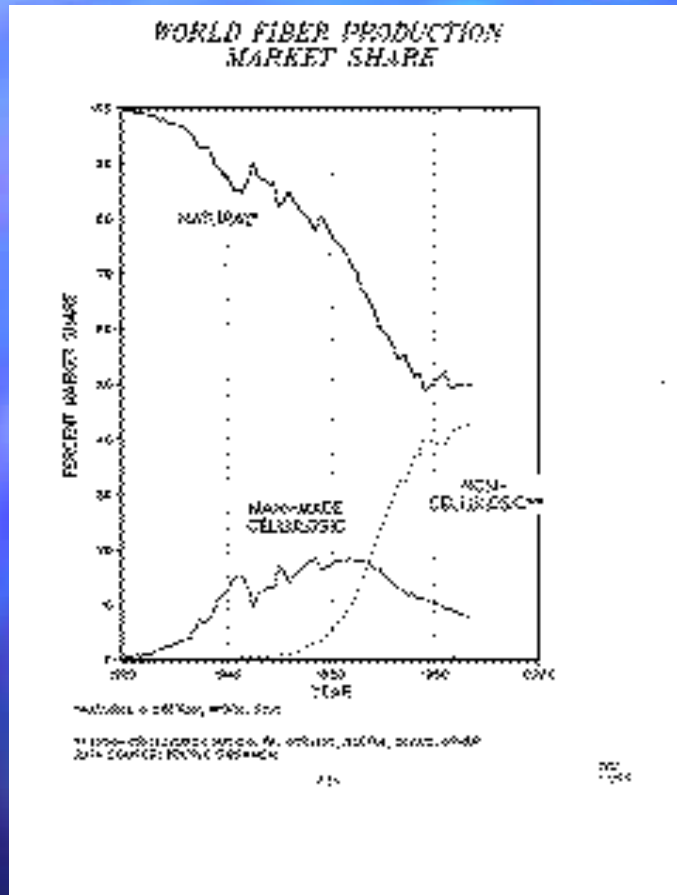


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of metal and glass by polymers**

Major Trends



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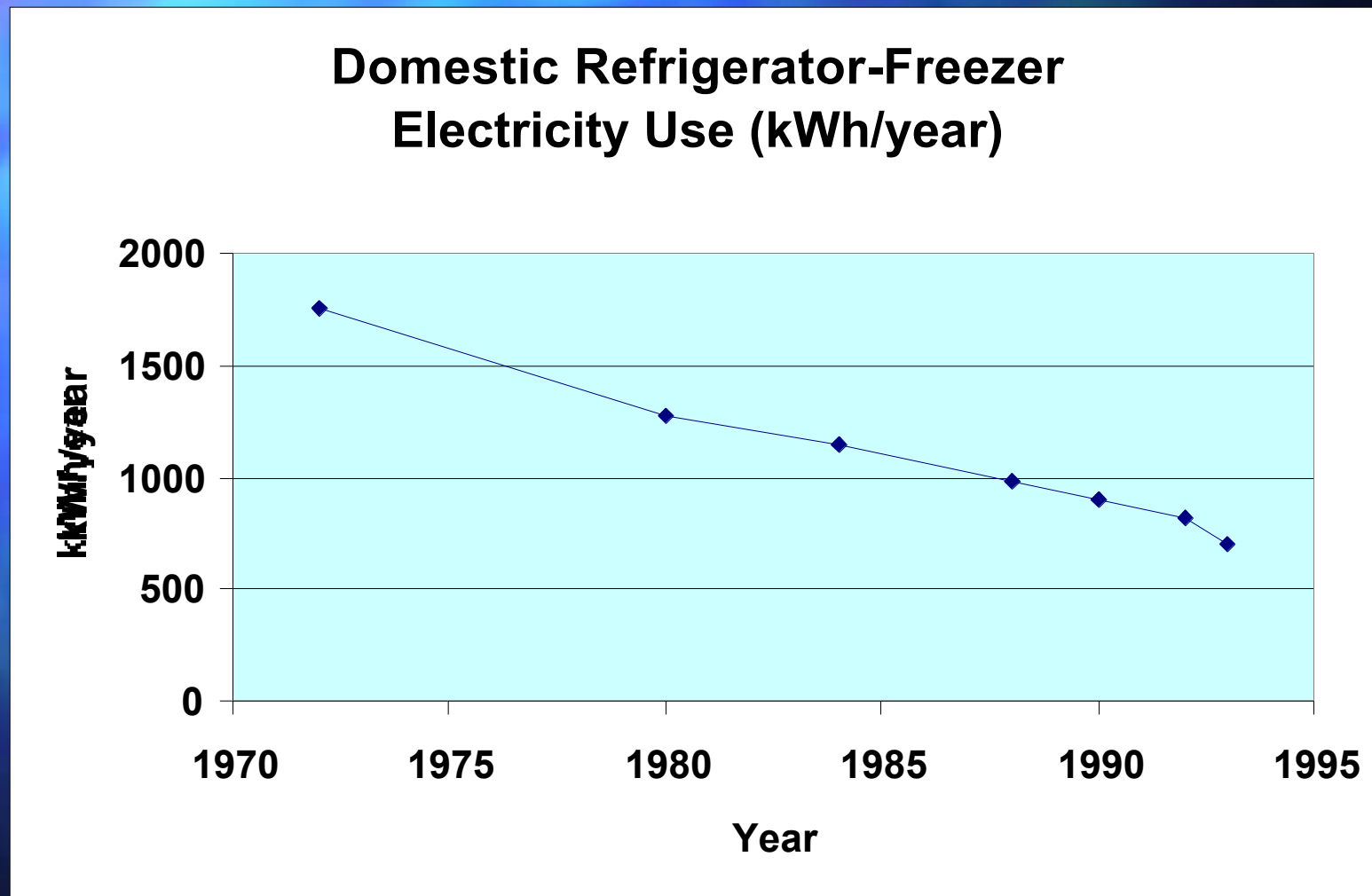
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Major Trends



## Major Trends

**Plastics and improved designs improve refrigeration and air conditioning energy efficiency**



**United States Data for 570 liter internal volume unit**

## Major Trends

# New Science and Technology

- Genetic engineering
- Control of primary structure
- Control of nanostructure
- Biomimetics
- Self-organization, templating
- Combinatorial approaches

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Major Trends





# Energy Efficiency Opportunities

## A DuPont Perspective

- Improved production processes
  - **bioprocessing**/renewable feedstocks
  - **plants as plants**
  - **sustainable processes**
- Weight reduction
  - transportation
  - packaging/insulation
- Alternative energy
  - batteries, **fuel cells**,
- Photonics, electronics, semiconductors

# The Biotechnology Revolution

- Recombinant DNA technology
- Applications to chemicals and polymers
  - Propanediol and Polypropylene terephthalate
  - Plants as (chemical) plants
  - Biomimetic materials
    - Spider dragline silk
    - Abalone shell

Louis Glasgow

# Bio-Functionality: Link to Markets

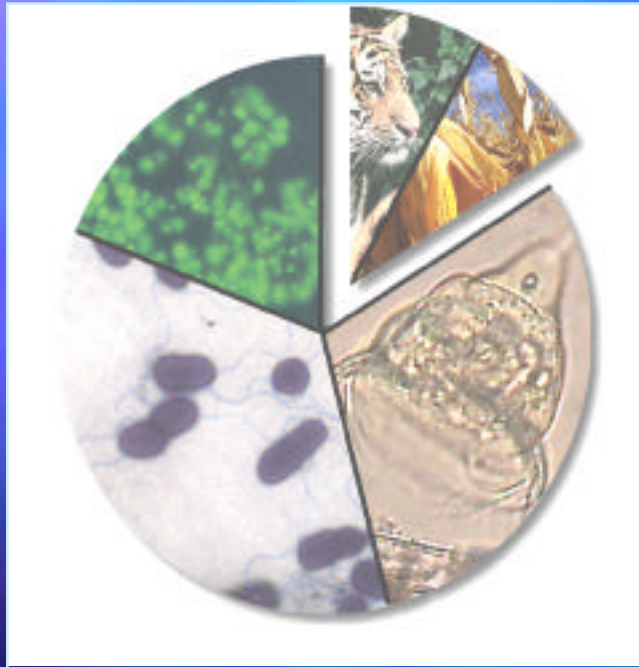
## Marketable Properties

- Increased strength and elasticity increased fracture toughness,
- Isotactic polymers, chiral chemicals, etc.
- Ability to distinguish subtle chemical size or shape differences
- Alter chem/physical behavior in response to environment
- Precisely Engineered Nanostructure
- Precisely controlled minute motion
- Eliminates/lessens rejection

## Bio-Capability

- Morphological Order
- Chemical Order
- Molecular Recognition/Selectivity
- Dynamic Surface Interactions
- Self-Assembly, Replication
- Molecular Motion
- Bio-compatibility

# Industrial Microbiology



- Greatest biological diversity
- Broad range of feedstocks
- Chemically specific
- Commercial experience with enzymatic processes
- Minimal environmental footprint

# **Microbial Production of 1, 3- Propanediol**





# Plant Biotechnology



- Ultimate production platform
- Zero variable cost
- Unique functionality
- Economic product concentration key to commercial success



# Enhancing Green Plant Production

## Development of *Monomer*-Producing Plants

Development of green plant production of p-hydroxybenzoic acid, a key intermediate for DuPont's liquid-crystal polymer offering, Zenite®

- 1999  
August - DuPont produces 5% *monomer* in Tobacco plants (20X literature's best)
- 1998  
Literature reports Transgenic tobacco produces 0.25% *monomer*
- 1996  
Literature reports plants that make 0.05% *monomer*
- 1993  
Literature reports plants produce 0 - 0.0001% *monomer*
- 1988

Biotech Revolution

# Green Plant Manufacturing Challenges



- Altering Agronomic Traits
- Growing on Non-Arable Land
- Manufacturing in Low Value Plants
- Flexibility in Processing Plants

# **Biomimetic Systems**

- **Biomimetic Catalysts**
- **Biomimetic Enhancement of Materials**
- **Biomimetic Chemical Processes**